



MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL  
FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
59 COURT STREET  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS  
JUNE 9, 2022 AT 5:30 PM

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Councilor Matthews-Kane, Chair of the Finance Committee and immediately recessed to wait for a quorum.

The meeting was called back to order at 5:35 PM.

The Clerk called the roll. Councilors Beltrandi, Flaherty, Mello, Morganelli, Adams Allie and Bean were absent.

Public Participation - None

The Departmental Budget Hearings were as follows:

Health Department

Health Director Joe Rouse was present to represent the Health Department budget. He informed the Council that something different was done this year with the budget in that there was money moved around and between the sanitary landfill budget and the health budget because the transfer station and the capped landfill portion is a separate parcel and that the capped landfill, per MGL, has to stay with the Health Department to monitor environmental impacts and the methane flair. There were no increases, just movement of money. Everything else in Health is either contractual or expenses. Councilor Figy asked if there is demand for radon tests. The Director replied that there is a demand and that the tests are free.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was  
VOTED: That the Health Department budget, as submitted, be APPROVED.

Nurses Department

Health Director Joe Rouse was present to represent the Nurses Department budget. He informed the Council that there is a request in the budget for a third nurse as one of the current staff nurses has moved to the Senior Center.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was  
VOTED: That the Nurses Department budget, as submitted, be APPROVED.

### Transfer Station (called Sanitary Landfill) Department

Health Director Joe Rouse was present to represent the Transfer Station Department budget. He informed the Council that as already stated the reduction that went to health department. He informed the Council that there was an omission of \$30,000 in last year's budget for Tighe and Bond so it's back in this year's budget. Councilor Matthews-Kane asked if the City is still getting grants. The Director replied that yes a small one for mattresses was received and in order to receive the larger grants the City has to provide certain services, such as a textile recycling, and once that happens, the City can qualify for the larger grants. Councilor Onyski questioned if the City has to pay for the textiles to be picked up. The Director replied that yes the City will have to pay. Councilor Matthews-Kane asked if he is concerned about the cost of recycling. The Director replied that yes he is concerned and the cost of the fees to go into the transfer station may have to go up. Councilor Allie questioned if taxes that are currently being collected could be used for the cost for recycling. The Director replied that there are about 4,000 stickers sold and it should be the people using the facility that should be paying to go to the transfer station, it should not be subsidized by everyone else. Councilor Harris informed the Council that she is not approving any increase in taxes or fees at this meeting tonight.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was

VOTED: That the Transfer Station (Sanitary Landfill) Department budget, as submitted, be APPROVED.

### Building Department

Building Superintendent Carissa Lisee was present to represent the Building Department budget. She informed the Council that there were a couple of changes with the addition of a second clerk and a part time code enforcement officer. The other line items were pretty much the same. The building department is a revenue generating department and in order to stay in the red she will be looking at the fee structure and there may be increases in the fees within the next few months.

### Plumbing and Electrical

Building Superintendent Carissa Lisse was present to represent the Plumbing and Electrical budgets. She informed the Council that the budget is for salary line items.

### Public Property and Buildings

Building Superintendent Carissa Lisse was present to represent the Public Property and Buildings Department. She informed the Council that there are big changes in the department with Tommy Curran retiring and the department has been restructured. There will be changes to schedules and there will be a new position to replace Tommy and Tommy will work sporadically and intermittently. Councilor Sullivan commented that the department has had a significant decrease.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was

VOTED: That the Building Department, budget Plumbing and Electrical budget and Public Property and Buildings budget, as submitted, be APPROVED.

#### Weights and Measures

Sealer of Weights and Measures Dennis Clark was present to represent the Weights and Measures budget. He informed the Council that he is a new hire and the budget includes a truck so that he does not have to use his own personal truck.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was

VOTED: That the Weights and Measures, budget, as submitted, be APPROVED.

#### Conservation Commission

Conservation Commission Coordinator Anna Meassick was present to represent the Conservation Commission budget. She informed the Council that she is a new hire and the budget is pretty much the same as last year. Councilor Matthews-Kane questioned the interpreter line item. The Coordinator replied that it's for new Russian Ukrainian homeowners to help them understand the requirements of conservation.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was

VOTED: That the Conservation Commission budget, as submitted, be APPROVED.

#### Emergency Management

Emergency Management Director Steve Malochleb was present to represent the Emergency Management budget. He informed the Council that there have been increases to the 911 system, it usually goes up 5%, but City may save money by doing a three year contract vs a one year contract. The increase for supplies is due to cost of printing for events and gas.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was

VOTED: That the Emergency Management budget, as submitted, be APPROVED.

#### Animal Control

Animal Control Officer Margaret Terkelsen was present to represent the Animal Control budget. She informed the Council that there are salary increases, and an opening for animal control officer and for training. Purchase of services increases are for gas and electric and for a new fence and cameras.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was

VOTED: That the Animal Control budget, as submitted, be APPROVED.

#### Police Department

Police Chief Valliere was present to represent the Police Department budget. He informed the Council that the budget has increased in the four different areas - gas and electric charges, police reform training, fuel costs and remediation for the police station building. Severances has been budgeted with Personnel. Councilor Figy questioned the status of the feasibility study for the new station. Chief Valliere replied that he has

met with the architectural firm for the needs of the assessment and then goes to look at potential sites. Councilor Harris thanked the Chief and his department for all they do to protect the citizens of Westfield. Councilor Matthews-Kane questioned if money in the budget is enough for the remediation of the roof. Captain Pitoniak replied that the roof isn't too bad and then it depends on how long they will be in the building. Councilor Matthews-Kane questioned what the police reform training is and is it mandated by the State. Chief Valliere replied that under the new police reform act it is mandated to have new training on firearms. Councilor Allie questioned if the Auxiliary police need the training. Chief Valliere replied that there are no more reserves or auxiliary due to the police reform so the overtime has increased because police officers will be needed for special events and vacation coverage. Councilor Allie commented that this is worse than an unfunded mandate. Councilor Figy questioned the status of the simulator from the money that was earmarked by Senator Velis. Captain Pitoniak replied that it's in the process of being purchased and that it will help with firearms training. Councilor Burns questioned the status of the Special Police Officers. Chief Valliere replied that they will not carry a firearm and will have no arrest powers and they will wear a different uniform. Councilor Sullivan questioned that since the special police officers do not have any police powers why not go to civilians. Chief Valliere replied that the qualifications for being a special police officer are to have been a prior/retired police officer or have had gone to some police training academy.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was

VOTED: That the Police Department budget, as submitted, be APPROVED.

#### Traffic Control

Police Captain Pitoniak was present to represent the Traffic Control budget. He informed the Council that the budget has some step raises.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was

VOTED: That the Traffic Control budget, as submitted, be APPROVED.

#### Fire Department

Fire Chief Patrick Egloff was present to represent the Fire Department budget. He informed the Council that the fire budget has actually gone down. There are contractual obligations for salary accounts. The budget is more transparent. The budget was reviewed for the past three years to see where transfers in and out occurred and adjustments were made to line items to more reflect the expenditures of the department. There were changes with out of grade and holiday and big changes in purchase of services. Councilor Harris commented that she read the annual report and it was well done and everyone that works there is a hero. Councilor Figy questioned the status of the manpower. Chief Egloff replied the department is down about six people and there is a national shortage of paramedics. Councilor Figy questioned the ratio of firefighters to paramedics. Chief Egloff replied there are now more paramedics than basic EMT's and everyone is a firefighter and paramedics get paid through the ambulance budget and is not paid by the taxpayers. Councilor Allie questioned if the shortages in

manpower in the department cause any vehicles to be out of service. Chief Egloff replied no. Councilor Burns questioned what vehicles will need to be replaced. Chief Egloff replied that is in the ambulance budget and there is a five year replacement plan but due to COVID there are supply shortages and may take six years. The department is very busy and helping out neighboring hilltowns, but even though there is more wear and tear on the vehicles there is revenue coming in from the ambulance billing. Councilor Figy questioned where the money is for the resolution of the legal matter. Chief Egloff replied that it is in the ambulance budget. Councilor Onyski thanked the Chief and his department.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was  
VOTED: That the Fire Department budget, as submitted, be APPROVED.

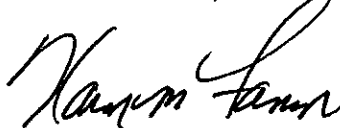
#### Ambulance

Fire Chief Patrick Egloff was present to represent the Ambulance budget. He informed the Council that there are increases in the ambulance budget but it is non-taxpayer dollars. It was created to take the burden off the taxpayer. There are 25 people in the ambulance budget. The ambulance fund is healthy and can afford 25 people. There is a line item of \$180,000 for the first payment of a first response vehicle. There is a line item of \$50,000 for EMS training which is mandated. He reported there has been an increase in calls over the past couple of fiscal years. There is a line item of \$150,000 under purchase of services for legal fees.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was  
VOTED: That the Ambulance budget, as submitted, be APPROVED.

At 7:04 PM, and upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was  
VOTED: To ADJOURN.

A true record, Attest:



Karen M. Fanion

City Clerk/Clerk of the Council

Presented to the Mayor

For approval July 7 2022

  
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Karen M. Fanion, City Clerk

Approved by the Mayor

7.12 2022

  
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Michael A. McCabe, Mayor